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NSC BRIEFING

24 August 1960

BACKGROUND

MALI FEDERATION

- I. Population: Estimated at 6,850,000, of which about 60 percent in Soudan. European population, largely French, totals about 55,000; about 49,000 of these are in Senegal.
- II. Area: 542,000 square miles (more than twice as large as Texas), of which Senegal has 81,000 (about 15 percent of total) and Soudan has 461,000.
- III. Economic Resources:
- A. Mainstay of economy, and 90 percent of the exports by value, are peanut products from Senegal. Other products: aluminum phosphate and calcium phosphate from Senegal; some coffee and palm kernels from Senegal; some peanuts, wool, and hides from Soudan.
- B. The Franc zone absorbs 88 percent of the exports and supplies about 70 percent of imports. In 1959 there were no Mali exports to the Sino-Soviet bloc; imports from Bloc valued at \$6,600,000 represented about 3 percent of the total.
- C. The Federation is heavily dependent on France for economic development aid; from January 1959 to March 1960, French Community's Assistance and Cooperation Fund furnished about \$16,000,000 to Mali, Senegal and Soudan--the bulk to Senegal. The investment fund of the European Economic Community has agreed to finance projects valued at \$4,900,000 in Senegal and \$600,000 in Soudan.

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IV. Political History: Senegal has been under French influence since 17th century; Soudan, since latter part of 19th century. Until 1958 when French Community formed, both were colonies of France under the Federation of French West Africa, administered from Dakar. Capital of Soudan is Bamako. Capital of Senegal was Saint-Louis, but was moved to Dakar (which is also capital of Mali) within the past year. Both Senegal and Soudan received measure of internal self-government under the loi-cadre of April 1957. In January 1959 Senegal and Soudan, autonomous republics of the French Community, approved the draft constitution of the Mali Federation. In January 1960, negotiations were begun in Paris on the terms of independence, and in April the accords were initialed transferring powers from France to Mali. On 20 June 1960, Mali acceded to independence.

V. Government Structure: Government modeled on that of 3rd and 4th French republics, but predominance of a single party has made legislative branch only a rubber stamp for the leaders of the executive. Federal Legislative Assembly has 40 members--equally representative of Senegal and Soudan. The President is chief of state, elected for a five-year term by an electoral college consisting of the members of the Federal Assembly and the Senegal and Soudan legislative assemblies. Office would have limited powers. Chief of the federal government is the prime minister--whose official title is President of the Council of Ministers--chosen by the President with approval of the assembly.

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